

That is absolute nonsense. It is a falsehood. It is a lie. Those who are uttering this lie day after day in this Chamber should be ashamed of themselves, and I call upon them to stop with their falsehoods.

First of all, their numbers are not correct. They have simply arbitrarily picked them as \$300 billion each to try to make them match, but the numbers are not exactly that. This is used to try to mislead the public.

Furthermore, this is not tit-for-tat. The tax cuts are not for the rich, as you hear over and over again, \$300 billion in cuts for Medicare to pay for \$300 billion in tax cuts for the rich. I happen to think that allowing parents of children to keep \$500 more of their money for every child they have, regardless of the income of the parents, is not a tax cut for the rich. Absolutely not.

If you try to analyze the income breakdown of the tax break that was in the tax bill passed by the Republicans, you can verify that only a small percentage of the amount of money will go to the rich. Frankly, it is the rich who pay the most taxes, so anytime you have a tax cut, they are going to get a substantial portion of it back. But it is not a tit-for-tat, and the numbers used on the floor are not accurate.

Furthermore, the statement that we are cutting Medicare by \$300 billion to provide money for the tax cuts for the rich is nonsense, because we are not cutting Medicare. Medicare will increase under the Republican proposal that has been adopted. It may not increase at the incredible 10.5-percent rate that it has been increasing at, but that is nearly three times the amount of increase in the private sector health care cost.

We cannot as a Nation continue to pay 2 or 3 times the rate of increase for those on Medicare that we do in the private sector. Clearly there is something wrong with Medicare if costs are going up that rapidly.

The proposal is to try to make Medicare run more efficiently. Our proposal is to try to preserve Medicare, it is to try to protect Medicare, to make sure that it is there for the people who need it.

If we do not take action to cut the rising rate of cost, there will not be any money left in Medicare after the year 2002. It will be bankrupt and people will not have the medical coverage they have come to depend upon.

That is the problem we are trying to address. It is a problem that has to be addressed in a bipartisan fashion by this House, by the Senate, and by the President.

I am very disappointed that in our attempt to begin addressing that issue, the other side of the aisle, including the President, is not addressing the problem with us. They are not sitting down with us and trying to cooperate, but they are rather getting on their high horse, or standing on their soapbox, and saying "cuts, cuts, cuts" when

we are not cutting, we are only trying to make it more efficient and more responsive to the needs of the people.

As I said at the beginning, I am a person of integrity. I try to be honest, and I have tried to be honest in this statement.

I truly hope that the other side of the aisle, everyone involved in this Chamber, the Senate, and the White House, will get together with us and say, "Look, we have a serious problem with Medicare." The President's own nominees on the trust fund board have said we have a problem with Medicare. Everyone agrees we have a problem with Medicare. Let us sit down as people of good will and say we have a problem. Let us work together to solve it.

My plea is that we all get together and solve this problem so in fact we can preserve, protect and repair the Medicare system so that we will meet the needs of the elderly, not just now and not just in the year 2002 but for all time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MARTINEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I was forced to miss a vote on Tuesday, May 23. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Brownback amendment, rollcall vote No. 348.

#### CALL FOR ABOLITION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of things I wanted to discuss with the House today, first of all with respect to the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, as a part of our ongoing effort to both balance the budget and give our children and our grandchildren a better future and to turn back the tide of taxation without representation, which is one of the things that the patriot founders of this country shed their blood for, we have to examine every single program and weed out those that do not provide a vital national service.

By that measure, the Department of Energy should and must be abolished. Under the Clinton administration, the Department failed to adequately meet the minimum requirements of maintaining the operational readiness of our nuclear weapons stockpile. Instead, it appears to have become more of a travel service to satisfy the Secretary of the Energy's wanderlust. Evidence of that failure can be found by simply ex-

amining Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's schedule. Last Wednesday, May 17 she traveled to Paris in order to give the welcoming speech at an international energy conference on Monday, May 22. Then she went to Baku, Azerbaijan, to give the keynote speech at an oil and gas conference. Today Ms. O'Leary is in Florence, Italy, for a luncheon and a dinner banquet at a conference on geothermal energy.

While these world travels are indeed very exciting, it would be interesting to know just how much they cost. I understand that Secretary O'Leary has transferred at least \$100,000 from other travel accounts, including accounts used by scientists and technicians in the Department's nuclear safeguards and security program, to pay for this globe trotting.

That is the gist of this, that is the essence of this, not so much that we want to micromanage the Secretary's travel schedule but that we are very concerned that money is being taken from other accounts, particularly the accounts that have to do with the safety, security, oversight, and general management of the nuclear weapons that she is charged with being the steward of to pay for this travel.

Indeed, it is my understanding that a number of offices involved in maintaining the safety, performance, and reliability of our nuclear weapons will run out of funds by July, 3 months before the end of the fiscal year, because of the Secretary's personal travel demands. They will run out of travel funds from those accounts.

While Secretary O'Leary's commitment to personally attend these international alternative and traditional energy conferences may be commendable, I find it very difficult to conceive that her attendance in exotic locales is more important than safeguarding our nuclear deterrent.

For that reason I have sent letters to the chairmen of House Commerce, National Security, and Government Reform and Oversight committees asking them to initiate investigations into the Secretary's prodigious travel. Here is a copy of the Secretary of Energy's travel schedule for the period that I was describing.

#### STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak next with respect to the comments of the gentleman from Texas regarding the Student Loan Program.

I have followed this as a member of the Committee on the Budget very closely and I have frankly been astonished at the response of the minority in this case. The issue is whether or not we should subsidize, that is, pay for the interest on student loans during the period of time that a student is in school Or should that money, the interest on that loan, be capitalized and added to the principal amount of the loan at the beginning of the loan period immediately following graduation; I think it is maybe 3 months following graduation.

The amount of money that that costs the Treasury is significant. There is a no question about it. The additional amount of money that it costs each student is not particularly great. It amounts to about \$40 per month.

But here is why I am astonished by the minority's arguments. If you look at the earnings potential for a college graduate versus a high school graduate in this country, what you find out is that on average over the period of a person's lifetime, a college graduate will earn about \$14,000 more per year on average for the entire period of their working career. If you take a 42- to 43-year period as the period that you are going to be working and you figure that the money will have some value as well, time value of money, that means that a college graduate stands to earn, on average, about \$1 million more than a high school graduate.

My question is this: Why should the high school graduates be subsidizing with their tax money, why should they be working to pay for this interest subsidy during the period that the college graduate is going to school?

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It does not really make any sense to me because our proposal does not eliminate student loans. To the contrary, it increases the funding for student loans. What it does say is that we will subsidize during the period of the loan while they are going to school, we will actually pay that as an additional loan, but we will not forgive it. It will not be a freebie, it will be capitalized and added as principal at the beginning of the period.

I just cannot understand why Democrats want people who are going to make a million dollars more on average over their lifetimes to be subsidized by hardworking people who go to high school. It does not make sense, it does not make economic sense, does not make any kind of fiscal sense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LAFALCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. RAMSTAD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today marks the twelfth annual commemoration of Missing Children's Day. Today we remember the thousands of children reported missing, pray for their safe return, and hope that 1995 will be a safer year for America's children.

I believe this year will be safer for children in this country because of a bill that became law at the end of last

year—the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children Registration Act. This new law requires those who prey on children, child abductors, molesters, who are convicted, to register their whereabouts with law enforcement for 10 years after their release from prison or parole.

The bill was named, Mr. Speaker, after a very special young boy from Minnesota, Jacob Wetterling, who was abducted from a small community in Minnesota in 1989. Jacob Wetterling was the motivating factor behind my introduction of the Wetterling bill in 1991. Thanks to the bipartisan support here in the House and the Senate and the President's signature, this became law.

Jacob Wetterling is also the reason his family, Patty and Jerry Wetterling, started the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, which is an organization dedicated to preventing abductions and finding missing children. Jacob and the thousands of children who are missing provide us with thousands of reasons to keep fighting for America's kids.

Mr. Speaker, it is alarming when you think of the statistics. The average child abductor commits 177 of these heinous acts before being apprehended the first time. The children of America and the parents of America need and deserve this type of protection afforded under the Jacob Wetterling law, and I applaud the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department for getting this system, this national registration system of convicted child abductors up and running.

The second element of that law, Mr. Speaker, is the community notification provision, a very, very important provision so that when these dangerous predators are released back into the community, child care centers, residents, police departments, and schools will know of their whereabouts. Because of the high level of recidivism on the part of these criminals it is essential that we have this type of community notification. After all, people in a neighborhood deserve to know when a convicted pedophile is released back into their community.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in wearing a white ribbon today as I am and send this message to American missing children. Particularly I send this message to Jacob Wetterling. You are always in our thoughts and prayers, we love you and we will never, ever stop looking for you.

#### "PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly glad there is a friend in the Speaker's chair as Speaker pro tempore today so I do not have to worry

about whether or not I am taking an hour away from someone's getaway Thursday afternoon, a friend in the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], who understands and loves history. I was just showing the gentleman some of the pictures in the book that I am about to discuss at length in this historical special order, the book titled "Prisoners of the Japanese." And the gentleman and I were just discussing up there on that lofty perch I believe the most important in any legislative body in all of history or anywhere in the world today, and he said to remind people that everything I will be talking about for the next hour also pertains to Cuba. Cuba at this moment is committing under an evil dictator, Fidel Castro, ghastly human rights atrocities in their prisons, up to and including in some cases, and you and I have heard the testimony firsthand from Armando Valladares, in some cases equally as savage as what I am going to read about the Japanese warlords and what they did all over the South Pacific through Burma, into Indonesia, what they did to Chinese prisoners, Russian prisoners, American, Australian, and British prisoners.

Mr. Speaker, we are told over and over by all of the cable outlets in this country that about 1 to 1½ million people watch the proceedings of this Chamber, and sometimes if it has been a slow or mundane legislative day the ratings actually go up if there is a special order of quality on the House floor.

Because of that million-plus audience and because our Galleries are filled with students today I want to give a warning that if any parent is home and they have a child 11 years of age or under, and I will explain in a moment why I am going to put the cutoff at 11 and under, I could recommend that they ask them to go outside and play or busy themselves in some other part of the house. If there is any parent in the Gallery with a child of 11 years of age or younger, I would suggest that they leave the Chamber, because I had nightmares the last two nights reading this book, and I am in my sixties. The reason I would say 12 years of age and up can handle it is for the simple reason that I was in the 11th grade when the Second World War ended and I went to movie theaters where the newsreels were there whether you wanted them or not, and I saw the newsreels of the Nazi atrocities, all through occupied Europe, and I remember specifically having painful thoughts, if not nightmares, at film of the British taking a double camp, Bergen-Belsen, and finding so many bodies of tortured human beings, most of them Jewish, that they used bulldozers to build mass graves and then pushed the bodies like cordwood into these mass graves. It was black-and-white film. They showed the women camp commandants and guards, brutal-looking, every one of them excessively overweight, stocky, tough, cruel faces. And the British soldiers, typical young "tommies" in their late